



Reverend John Brieffies

November 25, 1922 - June 7, 2015

Reverend John Brieffies, M.S.F., 92, died peacefully Sunday, June 6, 2015. He was fondly known as Father John to all who knew him since his arrival in the United States in 1971. Born in Grootebroek, Holland in 1922, he was from a large family. Father John was ordained as member of the Society of Missionaries of the Holy Family in 1956. As a missionary priest he worked in Chile until 1971. From Chile he was sent to the United States where he formed the General Mission Office, MSF, Inc. From this base he traveled the United States raising funds to support his fellow missionaries and their work. He earned the nickname "Highway Johnny" from his many miles travelled preaching the "Good News." He stopped traveling and preaching while in his early 80's but never retired.

Father Brieffies is survived by one brother, Claus Brieffies (Holland), many nieces and nephews, his two "ladies in the office" Beth Crosswell and Donna Geron, and his Church family of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish. Father Brieffies served as Chaplain for the local Father Jakubowski Council 8116 of Knights of Columbus. He served as auxiliary priest at OLBS parish until his death. He also assisted for many years at St. Bede Catholic Church. A Funeral mass will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, June 13th in Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church, 3570 King William Avenue, West Point, VA 23181. Interment will follow in St. Theresa Cemetery. There will be a rosary 6 p.m. on Friday, June 12th at Vincent Funeral Home, 417 11th Street, West

Point, VA. After the rosary service the family will receive friends to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made to Missionaries of the Holy Family, PO Box 918, West Point, VA, 23181.

Tribute Wall

PB

“ I remember very well my cousin John Brieffies doing his first Mass in his hometown Hoogkarspel, Netherlands. For his future work in Chile the Brieffies family gave him a red motorcycle. After the Allende change of power he was transferred to the USA. Many years later I met him occasionally when he visited his brothers and sisters and their children in the Netherlands. We all lost a friend with deep faith in God. May he rest in eternal peace.
Pim Brieffies, Hoogkarspel

Pim Brieffies - June 27, 2015 at 09:58 AM

KM

“ Our sincere condolences to the family from Groningen, Holland, Merian & Karel Eggen

Karel En Merian - June 18, 2015 at 02:16 PM

AM

“ Our condolences to the family of 'uncle' John Brieffies.

We knew him through friends when he visited his family in Canada.

Always happy, enjoying the company of family and friends.



Ans Mertens - June 15, 2015 at 10:49 AM

RB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



R van den Berg - June 11, 2015 at 05:01 PM

HW

“ I'll miss "oom Jan in The States". Cherish fond memories and his motto: "the purpose of life is to be happy". Hope you're reunited with my dear grandmother Gonny now.
Love always, Helga

Helga Wagemaker - June 11, 2015 at 01:52 AM

RB

“ 1 file added to the album Happy times !!!!!



Rick and Gerda Van Den Berg - June 10, 2015 at 06:58 PM

MC

“ *Fr. Brieffies was a wonderful addition to St. Bede's. My daughter, Alice McCrimmon Chestnutt, often was his alter server at the 12:00 Mass. We both remember how he used to balance the Missal on her head! He was always very kind and encouraging to young parents. He always thanked everyone at the end of Mass. Fr. Brieffies was a very special person!*

Mary Ann Cary

Mary Ann Cary - June 10, 2015 at 01:15 PM

LV

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Lilian Vroling-Brieffies - June 10, 2015 at 06:04 AM

AW

“ *Annecatrien De Wit-Brieffies lit a candle in memory of Reverend John Brieffies*



Annecatrien de Wit-Brieffies - June 10, 2015 at 06:01 AM

AW

“ *An inspiration to all of us.
Positive, interested and alive.*

He lived the good life, always in our hearts,

*Jan & Annecatrien de Wit-Brieffies
Adriaan, Willemijn, Joep, Hannelore*

Annecatrien de Wit-Brieffies - June 10, 2015 at 06:00 AM

LB

*Uncle John,
My Uncle whom I met once only in Holland in 1981. Much loved brother
of Frans and Claire Brieffies in Mackay Australia. A man of courage
and commitment to spread the good news of salvation. With love, his
extended family. May he be with Our Loving Lord and his heavenly
family.*

Lynette Brieffies - June 15, 2015 at 08:49 PM

AW

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Annecatrien de Wit-Brieffies - June 10, 2015 at 05:49 AM

JW

*From left to right, Annecatrien de Wit-Brieffies, niece of father John,
Adriaan de Wit, Jan de Wit, Hannelore de Wit. during our visit on April
30, 2012.*

Jan de Wit - June 14, 2015 at 02:39 AM

JW

great memories to a great men, always giving positive energy, thanks for all ome Jan

Jan de Wit - June 14, 2015 at 03:03 AM

LV

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lilian Vroling-Briefies - June 10, 2015 at 05:23 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Reverend John Briefies.*



June 10, 2015 at 05:22 AM

LV

“ *'The purpose of life is to be happy'*

*My dearest uncle ever...
You'll always be a part of me*

Lilian Vroling-Briefies - June 10, 2015 at 01:43 AM

FM

“ I have great memories of Father John from my early days serving at St. Bede in Williamsburg. (1988-1991.) He would often help us with the many weekend Masses there. His smile, sense of humor, his concern for his confreres in mission lands and his deep faith were always present. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

Met oprechte deelneming ,

*Father Stephen McNally
Fincastle, Virginia*



Father Steve McNally - June 09, 2015 at 11:37 PM

BE

“ Prayers for family and friends of Father John. You were such a special part of our family for most of my life. Thank you for your kindness and laughter. I can hear your laughter just thinking of you. Rest in peace Father John and watch over us. Becky Kozlowski (Daughter of Anna and Richard)

becky - June 09, 2015 at 09:15 PM

EL

“ I didn't get to see Father John that much but when I did see him for mass at Our Lady Of the Blessed Sacrament in West Point, I always enjoyed listening to him talk. He was very kind and would say funny things at times, I will always remember him speaking of gossip. It must have been something he didn't think too much of, but it struck a cord with me and I can say that I have really tried to follow his advice. My deepest sympathy to his family , and may you Rest in Peace Father John. Ednamae Lewis, Hampton Virginia.

Ednamae Lewis - June 09, 2015 at 07:55 PM

MJ

“ I haven't been to West Point or church in years but he was an amazing priest in my younger years and always there for family and friends.. he was loved by so many and will be truly missed.. RIP Father Brieffies... Marcella O'Connor-Jenkins

Marcella OConnor Jenkins - June 09, 2015 at 07:22 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Reverend John Brieffies.



June 09, 2015 at 03:51 PM

BE

“ Such a delightful gentleman, he was truly Loved by so many.
Our Deepest Sympathy,
Beverly & Jim Ross



Beverly - June 08, 2015 at 08:32 PM

LB

My Uncle John, Someone I managed to meet just once. I praise and thank God for our priests who give their lives to spread the Good News of Salvation. May he rest in peace. Lynette Brirffies, Mackay Australia

Lynette Brieffies - June 16, 2015 at 08:50 PM

MC

Father John was a devoted priest, a warm and caring person and a good friend to my parents Stanley and Virginia Ryczak for many years. He would often stop by at Christmas time for a long visit, enjoy some eggnog with our family and watch dad's train go around the village under the Christmas tree. He had such a unique and contagious laugh and so many stories to share. OLBS parish was lucky to have Father John for so many years. The day before my mother moved to her new home in Fairfax, Father John gave her a special blessing and a long embrace as they said goodbye and parted for the last time. It meant a great deal to mom and to me that they could say their final fairwell. Rest in Peace dear Father John, you'll be missed by so many.

Maryann Ryczak Casterline - June 23, 2015 at 08:09 PM